

Reneging on Your...

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will go to church every Sunday and bring her children. Distressed about losing his job, a man may promise God that he will quit drinking if only God would get him work. Anxious from seeing unpaid bills piling up and visions of being homeless, a parent may promise God all kinds of changes if only He will deliver them from the financial mess they were in.

Often, God does deliver the despairing one from the serious situation. However, the rescued person sometimes goes back on his commitment to the Lord. He reneges on keeping his promise to God.

Such was the situation in Jeremiah's day. God had the prophet Jeremiah relay a commandment to the Hebrews. The commandment was that they were to release all the Jewish maids and manservants from bondage. They were to be set free (Jer. 34:8-10), and the servants were released from their servitude.

However, as do so many in a similar situation, many changed their minds (Jer. 34:11). They went back on their commitment to the Lord. Those who were freed were put into bondage.

Their doubled-mindedness, unfortunately, cost those who broke their promise to the Lord quite a lot as He dealt with their disobedience and promise-breaking. Enemies attacked them; pestilences plagued them; famine ravished the people; their reputation was tarnished; many lost their lives (Jer. 34:17-22); and other punishments. They paid an extremely exorbitant wage for breaking their word to God.

Let this hard lesson Israel learned from the judging hands of God be a wake-up call to you for any promises you have made to Him. The Lord takes our words very seriously. Be honest; be true; keep your word as God expects you to!

"If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth." Num.30:2

"When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldst not vow, than that thou shouldst vow and not pay." Ecclesiastes.5:45

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Your Words

Bill Brinkworth

God's words, as preserved in the Bible, are always honest and can be trusted (Prov. 30:15). Our words, however, are not always truthful and cannot be trusted. All sin with their mouth.

"Word" is used at least 704 times in the King James Bible. Although most of those times refer to God's Word, we can see from the many references that words are important to God. Some verses show us what God thinks about what comes out of our mouths.

In Romans 1, where at least 30 sins are mentioned, at least fifteen involve what was said. Some of the iniquities mentioned are ungratefulness, debating, deceitfulness, gossiping, backbiting, pride, boasting, disobedience to parents, and covenant-breaking. Although there are hundreds of commandments in the Old Testament, the popularly known "Ten" includes at least three commandments that can involve our tongue. It should be evident to all that our tongue can

be used for good, or it can be used to sin.

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Reneging on Your Promise to God

Bill Brinkworth

When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee." Deut. 23:21

In desperation, sometimes people plea to the Lord for His help.

They beg and promise Him that if He remedies a situation, they will do or stop doing



something in return for His intervention. No matter the dire, compelling circumstances, they vowed they would do something.

A frantic mother at the bedside of her deathly ill child may beg God that if He heals her child, she

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Your Words

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Here is some of what the Bible says about the words that can come out of our mouths:

★ **Many sins are with the tongue.** Our tongues can be behind some of our iniquities. *“Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.” James 3:5-6* *“But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.” James 3:8* *“Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips....” Isa. 6:5*

“And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.”

Matthew 12:32

“For thy mouth uttereth thine iniquity, and thou chooseth the tongue of the crafty.” Job 15:5 *“Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.” Psalms 52:2*

“Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words:” Psalms 64:3

“They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.”

Psalms 73:9

“The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.” Proverbs 15:2

“The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.”

Proverbs 21:6

“A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.”

Proverbs 26:28

Also: *Psalms 15:3, Proverbs 6:17, Pr. 18:21, Pr. 17:4.*

★ **Be careful what the tongue says.** It can and should be controlled!

“Keep thy tongue from evil and thy lips from speaking guile.”

Psalms 34:13

“Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.” Ecclesiastes 5:2

“Teach me, and I will hold my tongue: and cause me to understand wherein I have erred.” Job 6:24 Also: *Job 27:4, Proverbs 10:31, I Peter 3:10.*

★ **We will be accountable for every word we say!** *“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.”*

Matthew 12:36

“The LORD shall cut off all flat-

tering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things:”

Psalms 12:3

“For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.”

Psalms 139:4

“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain.” James 1:26 There were times when Jesus, our example, knew to say nothing. Sometimes, it would be best to take His example and keep silent in certain situations.

“And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.”

Matthew 27:14

★ **The tongue can be used for good.**

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

Colossians 3:17

“And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.”

Psalms 35:28

“The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.”

Proverbs 10:20

Also: *I Timothy 4:12, Proverbs 15:4, Proverbs 14:15.*

★ **There will be times when we can speak what God wants us to say.** Use it for His glory now. *“And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,*

to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:11

Like the rest of our body, our tongue was part of God’s creation. Its creation was not intended for us to sin against our Creator. A saved person should strive to control what is uttered by his tongue. Some of the best advice for those desiring to please God and wanting to control their tongue comes from the adage, “If you can’t say anything good, don’t say anything.”

Three Will Know

Author Unknown

A newly saved Chinese man was tempted to cheat. Upon his refusal, his tempter asked why.

“Because three will know that I cheated,” replied the Christian. “You will know. I will know, and Heaven will know.” This applies to all of us.

“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

Hebrews 4:13

“A promise made is a debt unpaid until you keep your word.”

— Author Unknown